



# Benelux

# EDGE

Volume 1, Issue 3

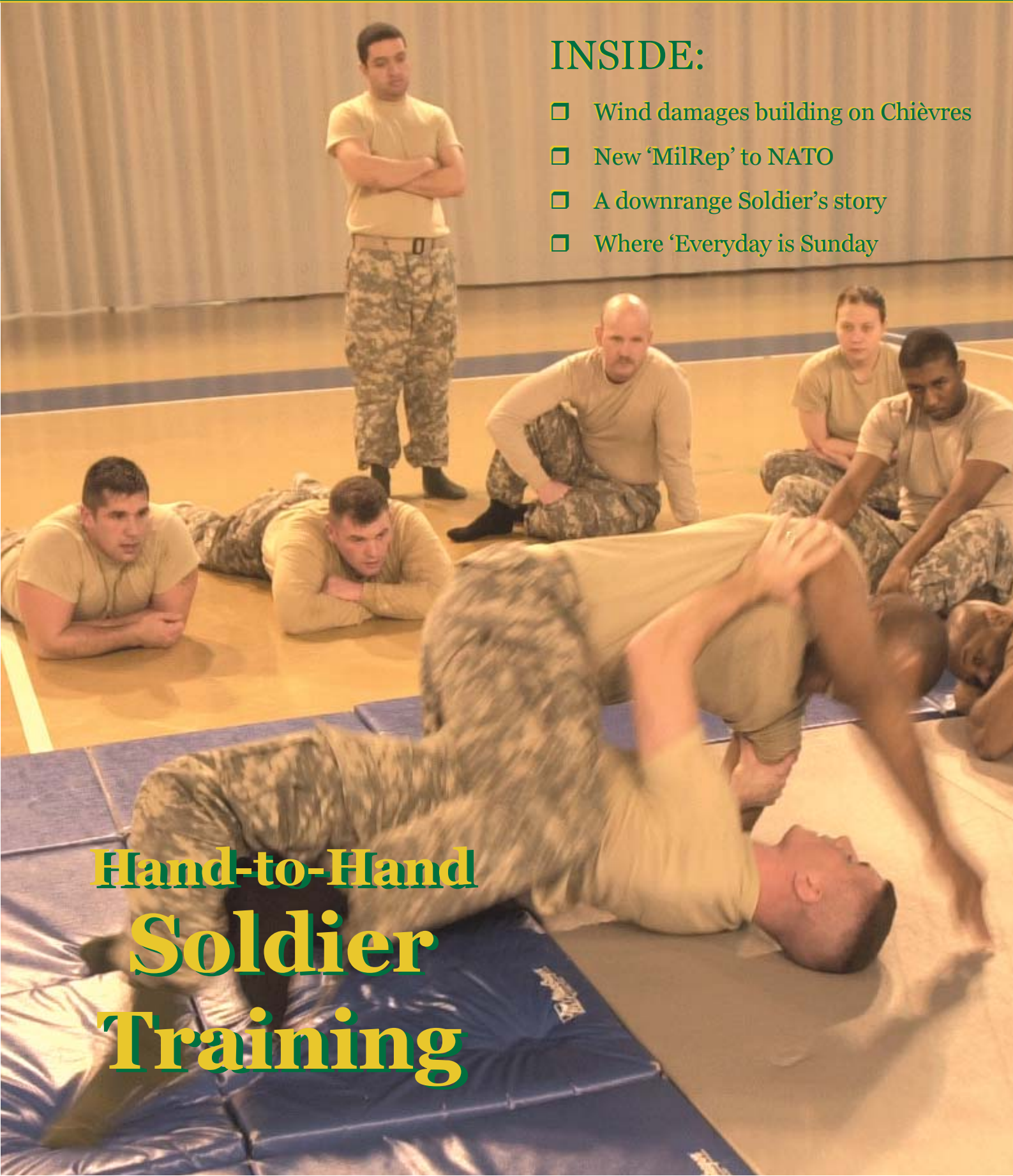
*'Sharpen the Sword'*

February 2007

## INSIDE:

- ❑ Wind damages building on Chièvres
- ❑ New 'MilRep' to NATO
- ❑ A downrange Soldier's story
- ❑ Where 'Everyday is Sunday'

## Hand-to-Hand Soldier Training





# Nowowiejski Notes



The following are questions customers submitted through the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Interactive Customer Evaluation (I.C.E.) system with the responses from the service provider.

## USAG Schinnen

**Pin Point Café Question:** "USAG Schinnen moved cosmic bowling to Saturday night but didn't change the hours of operation for the Pin Point café to coincide with this activity. Cosmic bowling will not be successful without the Pin Point Café being open at the same time."

**Answer:** Pin Point Café closing hours have changed from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays to accommodate cosmic bowling customers. Thank you for the suggestion.

**Fitness Center Question:** "I used the Precor stretching equipment at the Schinnen Fitness Center but there are no safety wrist straps on the equipment anymore. Can these be replaced because it is a safety hazard."

**Answer:** We are glad our customers are safety conscious and willing to bring things like this to our attention. We have located a vendor for the wrist straps and will purchase them very soon.

## USAG Benelux

The following comments were submitted about the USAG Benelux Employee Town Hall held Dec. 12:

1) "Believe the Army Pride presentation was a excellent presentation and hopefully reached a lot of people in as far as the impact they make on their co-workers as well as the folks they service, well done!! Every one in the Benelux should have the opportunity to view the presentation."

2) "The split Town Hall was a good improvement; hosting it in the right environment even better! The Town Hall in English was not properly managed due to time restraints. Comments from senior staff not appropriate if your going to brief the community then you should complete the briefing with questions and answers. Once again Staff trying to place quantity over quality in the Benelux."

We need your comments, kudos, questions and concerns! To submit go to <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil> and click the ICE link to tell us what you think.

As we begin the month of February, let me wish you a Happy President's Day weekend in advance.

As you enjoy the holiday, I hope you have opportunity to remember the remarkable lives of the two presidents of the United States whose birthdays we honor on this particularly American holiday, and that you complete a Privately-Owned Vehicle (POV) risk assessment before hitting the autobahns across Europe.

Two subjects for February: Army Family Action Plan conferences (we call them American Family Action Plan Conferences in our joint communities of the Benelux), and Surveys. It's the season for both.

AFAP conferences are the best opportunity you have all year to address issues and concerns and to be heard.

There are two in the Benelux. Schinnen/JFC Brunssum is set for early February, and Brussels/NATO HQ/Chièvres/SHAPE is mid-March (see pages 23 and 32 of this Edge).

We need your participation as volunteers to help host the conferences, as delegates, and to submit your issues for discussion.

Currently, we have issue boxes located strategically throughout the communities soliciting issues and comments, and you can download the form online.

Please see the article on page 23 for details of how to participate and whom to contact.

If you ever thought: "Why don't they do it this way?" about an issue in the community, this conference is for you. Together we make our communities better through AFAP. Our Benelux leaders will be engaged to hear you.

### It's the season of Surveys.

There are four surveys that I will highlight here, and I'm sure they are not all of the ongoing surveys.

Why would you want to take the 20 to 30 minutes of your precious time to take a survey? Because it's the way you are heard where you live and help to improve your own quality of life.

Each year, multiple surveys attempt to find out what you need, what you think, and how you are doing, so that resources can be aligned with your needs, and so that leaders can make decisions in support of you.

Leaders don't like to waste resources or make bad decisions. The time that you take to fill out a survey helps them to help you with informed decisions.

Here are the four surveys, and all of them are linked from the USAG Benelux web site main page at [www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil](http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil):

□ Annual Civilian Attitude Survey: Open



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski  
USAG Benelux Commander

for all Army employees, including U.S. federal, NAF, and host nation employees. The survey should take about 30 minutes or less and can be completed on duty time.

□ For military members, the next Annual Overseas Housing Allowance Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey for Belgium will be conducted from Feb. 1 thru 28. Full participation in this survey is essential as both the Utility and MIHA allowances will be updated based on the results. If you want enough money to live in your private house you need to complete this survey.

□ Army Continuing Education System (ACES) Needs Assessment Questionnaire. The USAG Benelux Education Center is conducting an education needs assessment to identify the educational needs of Soldiers, family members, and civilians.

□ For parents and students, the Department of Defense Dependents Schools are conducting their annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. I particularly invite the parents of students at AFNORTH, Brussels, and SHAPE schools to complete a form for each of their students as a way to register the accomplishments and needs of our students in the Benelux with DoDEA. Let your voice be heard!

Finally, if you are not in one of those groups, we need to hear from above, we always invite your comments via the Interactive Customer Evaluation system. If you ask for feedback from a USAG Benelux activity director and don't hear back, I invite you to let me know via the Commander's Hotline at the lower left corner of the USAG Benelux web page. We wish you a productive, safe and healthy February 2007!

## COVER PHOTO:

By J.D. Hardesty

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Soldiers receive hand-to-hand combatant training Jan. 18 at the Community Activity Center from Staff Sgt. Jeff Kloss (bottom), a desk sergeant with the USAG Benelux's Directorate of Emergency Services and Staff Sgt. Dekishon Rogers, a military police officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Benelux.

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### Commanders

Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski .....	USAG Benelux
Lt. Col. Eric D. Tilley .....	USAG Schinnen
Lt. Col. Patrick J. Kilroy .....	USAG Brussels
Lt. Col. John G. Romero .....	Chièvres Garrison

### Public Affairs officers and personnel

Marie-Lise Baneton .....	USAG Benelux
Laurri Garcia.....	USAG Schinnen
Thad Moyseowicz .....	USAG Brussels
Cis Spook .....	Chièvres Garrison
J.D. Hardesty .....	Editor
LaDonna Davis .....	Writer

### Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marketing

Kim Wayland.....	USAG Benelux
Johanna Krause .....	Benelux Marketing
William Audretsch .....	Benelux Marketing
Ellison Meier .....	Schinnen Marketing
Salvador Espinoza .....	Schinnen Marketing

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### Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor; but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, force protection and grammar.



USAG Benelux is a direct reporting garrison to the Installation Management Command-Europe

# Say WHAT?

**February is Black History Month. What equality initiatives would you incorporate into today's Army and why?**



**Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Jessen**  
USAG Brussels

*"The structure, initiatives and programs are already in place. It's people, bottom line. It's up to people to use the systems properly and treat others appropriately."*



**Patsy Herbaut**  
Chièvres Garrison

*"I would incorporate educational training, not so much about the past issues and problems, but more looking at present day and in to the future, and have Soldiers and civilians participate more heavily in programs. After all, it is their program, it is their shared responsibility to respect others and treat everyone equally."*





# Wind storm damages Chièvres Air Base

PHOTO: Courtesy J.P. Panis, Directorate of Emergency Services

One of the buildings in the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux sustaining the damage during the Jan. 18 wind storm was located on Chièvres Air Base. A few buildings located on Caserne Daumerie were also damaged by the winds. No injuries were reported across the USAG Benelux though trees, limbs and other debris blocked roadways in and around the area.

## Benelux buildings damaged, no injuries

By J.D. Hardesty  
*Benelux EDGE Editor*

Hurricane force winds topping 100 mph toppled trees, blew debris and damaged buildings across Europe Jan. 19.

According to local weather reports in the Chièvres area, wind gusts topped 65 mph, while German meteorologists recorded gusts over 118 mph.

Trees were blown over on the road to Ath, delaying traffic for nearly two hours as emergency personnel used chain saws to remove the debris.

Downed limbs and power lines were also reported in the area.

The gale force wind damaged several buildings on Chièvres Air Base and Caserne Daumerie.

No storm-related injuries were reported across the USAG Benelux footprint.

Across Europe, reports blamed the storm for 31 deaths; 12 in England, seven in Ger-

many, five in the Netherlands, three in the Czech Republic, two in Belgium and two in France - many of which were motorists in storm-related accidents.

The most significant damage locally was reported on Chièvres Air Base as wind gusts forced 40 to 60 percent of the roof panels off one side of a brick building.

Light damage was reported to buildings located on Caserne Daumerie, located across from the air base,.

U.S. Army Garrison Brussels reported minimal damage as small corrugated plastic roof material was ripped off a small shelter. There were reports of other storm-related debris in the area, though nothing that would significantly impact the garrison's mission.

Safety for the Benelux workforce was paramount as the wind gusts gained strength.

"We closed commercial operations on Chièvres Air Base as result of the damaging winds," Chièvres Garrison Commander Lt.

Col. John G. Romero said during the night of the storm. "Additionally, all non-essential garrison activities on the base and Caserne Daumerie closed."

According to J.P. Panis, Directorate of Emergency Services, the process of repairing the damage has already begun.

As a safety precaution, the Directorate of Public Works and the DES evaluate the extent of the damage. One road was closed to through traffic as a safety precaution until repairs are made.

DPW and DES leaders met with Lixon officials, the Charleroi-based contractor who constructed the nearly two-year-old building at a cost of \$9.3 million. Abetec, based in Dendermonde, Belgium, designed the structure that opened in April 2005.

Initial damage estimates could take as long as two weeks to develop, however preliminary estimates for damages across the Benelux could top \$100,000, Panis said.



## *U.S. Representative to NATO Military Committee*

# Vice Adm. Sullivan takes helm



PHOTO: Courtesy of Brussels Public Affairs Office

Navy Vice Adm. William "Bill" Sullivan became the U.S. Representative to the NATO Military Committee (MilRep) in December, replacing Marine Lt. Gen. Edward Hanlon.

By Thad Moysesowicz  
*Brussels Public Affairs Office*

There's a new face in Brussels at the NATO Military Committee these days.

Vice Adm. William "Bill" Sullivan assumed duties as the U.S. Representative to the NATO Military Committee (MilRep) in December, having relieved Marine Lt. Gen. Edward Hanlon.

In his capacity as MilRep, the admiral is the senior U.S. uniformed officer representing U.S. national interests in the Benelux.

The U.S. MilRep is the personal representative of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the NATO Military Committee. Each of the 26 NATO member nations has a military representative.

Says Sullivan: "Our job as a committee is to provide military advice and expertise to the North Atlantic Council, which normally consists of the national Permanent Representatives, or 'PermReps.' We also provide guidance to NATO's top military commander (Supreme Allied Commander of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers, Europe Army Gen. Brantz J. Craddock, whose headquarters are located in Casteau, Belgium)."

The MilReps, by definition, are their respective nations' military voices in the NATO Military Committee. Since NATO is a consensus-based organization, the military committee is the venue by which the nations' armed forces agree on common military policy.

All NATO-member nations are democracies. Since military policy in democracies, is, ultimately, subordinated to political direction, Sullivan works closely with the U.S. PermRep, Ambassador Victoria Nuland.

"We have a solid working relationship," he says. "It's important - in fact, vital - that there be absolutely no 'daylight' between the positions she and I espouse on behalf of the United States. Having said that, however, my obligation is to represent the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs with the soundest military advice that can be provided."

Sullivan comes to the job directly from the Pentagon, where, for three and a half years he was the vice director for Strategic Plans and Policy on the Joint Staff (J-5).

"My tour on the Joint Staff was excellent preparation for my assignment as the U.S. MilRep. The J-5 directorate is the chairman's lead on all NATO policy matters, so each NATO policy issue crossed my desk and each bit of policy guidance to the MilRep had our directorate's fingerprints on it." Sullivan continues: "It's really a very logical progression, one which has been followed by several previous U.S. MilReps. Even though my assignment as U.S. MilRep is actually my first NATO tour, I feel I'm well prepared to be the chairman's voice at this important NATO council."

He jokes, "Of course, now the shoe is on the other foot, and I'm the one who needs to seek J-5 guidance!"

What does Sullivan think of NATO?

He's quick with an emphatic answer: "NATO is the most important and most successful international military alliance in history. Period."

Having successfully accomplished its deterrence mission during the Cold War, NATO is now transforming itself from a defensive alliance to a proactive global player.

"NATO remains a pillar of U.S. defense

policy," he said. "The president has said so, time and again. It's no accident that one of Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates' first overseas trips as secretary included a stopover at NATO Headquarters in Brussels before proceeding directly to Afghanistan, where NATO's biggest and most ambitious operation is located."

Sullivan continues: "Some 31,000 troops, including 11,000 U.S., are currently in Afghanistan under NATO command. Do you remember how I said NATO was transforming? That's a pretty impressive demonstration of the growing importance and relevance of NATO."

Does Sullivan have any messages for the Benelux EDGE readership?

"You bet. First, the entire U.S. military footprint here in the Benelux region is here, directly or indirectly, because of NATO. There would be no U.S. Army Garrisons in Chièvres, Brussels or Schinnen were it not for NATO," he said. "Second, NATO's accomplishments are your accomplishments. Every U.S. person, uniformed or civilian, assigned to the three NATO headquarters in the Benelux or to the Army's Benelux garrisons is making an important and growing contribution to the national defense of the United States. Don't think otherwise."

Sullivan offers one last point. "I'm a Naval

***"...NATO's accomplishments are your accomplishments. Every U.S. person, uniformed or civilian, assigned to the three NATO headquarters in the Benelux or to the Army's Benelux garrisons is making an important and growing contribution to the national defense of the United States. Don't think otherwise."***

Vice Adm. William "Bill" Sullivan  
U.S. Rep. to NATO Military Committee

officer by service background and have long been a 'joint' officer. The U.S. representation at the three NATO headquarters here in the Benelux is overwhelmingly 'joint.' It's been a real eye-opener for me to see the tremendous job the small Benelux garrisons have been doing in supporting the U.S. footprint at the respective NATO headquarters they serve. My hat is off to each of the Benelux garrisons for the superb support you provide both our families as well as those of us who daily work NATO issues. In addition to the services specifically provided by the Army garrisons, we're also grateful for the extremely important services - medical, dental, signal, Department of Defense Dependent Schools - I hope I didn't leave any out - that sustain our Benelux communities. As I said earlier, those of you who provide these services share in each and every one of our nation's successes at NATO."



# A downrange Soldier's story

By Maj. John Lorenzen  
USAG Schinnen

## Deployed with V Corps to Iraq

At approximately 6:10 p.m. on Jan. 7, the C-130 aircraft carrying myself and other V Corps staff members began its descent into Baghdad International Airport. The aircraft approach to the airport is not the smooth, gradual descent like that into other commercial airports.

In order to stay clear of anti-aircraft weapons the descent is a high-speed, stomach-churning spiral. The goal is to get the plane on the ground as soon as possible and in one piece. I think we all welcomed the jerk as we hit the runway and were relieved to be on terra firma—even if it was Iraq.

Next was a 30 minute ride from the airport to the base in an armored vehicle that resembled a recreational vehicle. On its front someone had stenciled a name for the vehicle - "The Coffin."

These first few rather ominous moments in Iraq made two things crystal clear - I definitely wasn't in the Benelux anymore and for the duration of my tour nothing would be easy.

So began my 11 month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as an individual augmentee to the V Corps staff (during OIF the corps HQs is designated as the Multi-National Corps-Iraq) which is headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany.

The deployment was something I had looked forward to since I found out about it in March 2005. At that point, I had been in the Army for 12 years and never deployed. I felt like I had been practicing for the game but was never getting called on by the coach to go in. Now I would get my chance.

I awoke on my first morning in Iraq, walked out of my trailer (which I shared with another major) and took a left. As I cleared my trailer a majestic structure dominated the otherwise mundane sightline. About a half a mile away stood the Al Faw Palace. Al Faw is one of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's palaces scattered throughout country. This particular palace, built in 1991, took its name from a peninsula in southern Iraq which was the site of a battle during the Iran - Iraq war. The palace now serves as the MNC-I headquarters and was where I spent almost all of my waking hours.

As a logistics officer, I worked in the corps' C-4 office. When I arrived I thought I was going to be working in what was called the Logistics Readiness Cell which is sort of a fusion cell within the C-4 responsible for a host of administrative as well as operational tasks.

On my first day I went to the C-4 section and found that the LRC was manned and would be for the next 10 months. The unit we were rotating with was the XVIIIth Airborne Corps from Fort Bragg, N.C. Like V Corps, they had individual augmentees and it just so happened that the LRC was manned by augmentees who had arrived for their year tour just two months prior to my arrival.

I was in a quandary - I was in Iraq without a job. The "powers that be" who would make the manning decisions within the section weren't due in for another day or two so I spent the time looking around the section for a job.

I knew that just prior to my departure U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen had been tasked to supply an officer for the corps' mortuary affairs job, so, I was reasonably sure there was no backfill for that position. I told an officer who assisted in the manning decisions I was interested in the mortuary affairs job. I remember his rather surprised look and his asking for my assurance that mortuary affairs was something I wanted to do for the next year. After all, we were in Iraq and mortuary affairs was an area that would see "the worst of the worst." I assured him I was up to the job.

As the corps mortuary affairs officer I was responsible for ensuring the nine Mortuary Affairs Collection Points in Iraq handled human remains in accordance with published policies, regulations and guidelines. The true heroes in the mortuary affairs process are the 92Ms (Mortuary Affairs Specialists) who man the nine MACPs in Iraq. They are the Soldiers who actually receive and handle the remains of U.S. military and civilians, Third Country Nationals, Iraqi Security Forces and civilians and, finally, enemies. While I was in Iraq more than 700 remains were processed through the MACPs and, all remains, including enemy remains, are handled with the same dignity, honor and respect.

The highlight of my time in Iraq was my efforts in building a mortuary affairs system for the Iraqi Army. As part of the effort to turn over operations to the Iraqis, I worked with the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, the agency responsible for training the Iraqi Security Forces, and the Iraqi Army to put a mortuary affairs process in place. When I left Iraq last month, construction on the first Iraqi Army MACP was nearing completion and the training of Iraqi Army soldiers who would man the facility was about to begin. It's a small thing in the grander scheme of what is going on in that country but I consider it my most notable contribution to the cause.

I've been asked what the toughest part of the job was. For me, the toughest part was looking at a new casualty report which contained all of the service member's personal information and knowing that someone back home who loved this person was going to get some life-altering news in the next few hours. That was something I never got used to. But I would do it again because it was important and critically sensitive work. The men and women who gave their lives in Iraq are heroes and I was truly honored to give a little bit for those who gave all.









# Forward Operations Bases Downrange: Where 'Everyday is Sunday'

By J.D. Hardesty  
*Benelux EDGE Editor*

The spirit of a warrior fighting for his country in the Global War on Terror doesn't take off on Sundays.

Chaplains ministering downrange to America's fighting forces, many stationed at Forward Operations Bases in Iraq, find "Everyday is Sunday."

Chaplains selflessly serving Soldiers in war is nothing new.

In 1943, four young Army chaplains joined 900 raw recruits who were headed for battle on the Army transport ship *Dorchester*.

The chaplains: Rev. George Fox, a Methodist minister; Rabbi Alexander Goode; Rev. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister; and Father John Washington, a Catholic priest, gave their all selflessly.

On Feb. 3, 1943, a torpedo from a German submarine ripped through the hull of the *Dorchester* and the ship began to descend rapidly into the freezing arctic waters.

In the frantic scramble for lifeboats, the four Army chaplains selflessly removed their own life jackets and gave them to the Soldiers, knowing that they could not possibly survive.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

The differences in faith joined together in what U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Chief of Chaplains (Col.) Sidney Marceaux describes as love. "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friend," he said.

Marceaux has spent 41 years in the Army

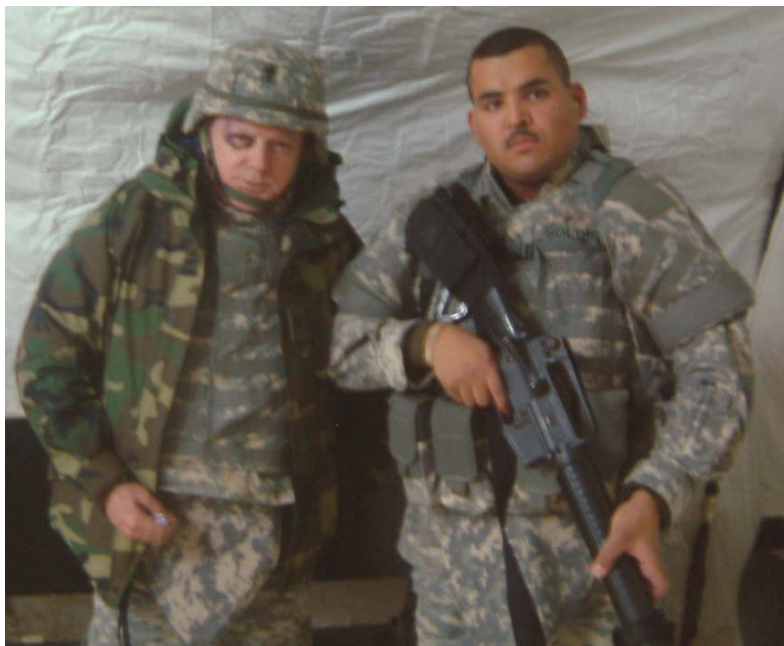


PHOTO: Courtesy Chaplain (Col.) Sidney Marceaux

Chaplain (Col.) Sidney Marceaux (left) partners with his volunteer chaplain's assistant, Sgt. Moises "Mijo" Solorio, who provided personal force protection for the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux chief of chaplains while he was deployed 32 days in Iraq during the holiday season.

meeting the trifold Chaplaincy mission of nurturing the living, caring for the wounded and honoring the dead.

This is Marceaux's fourth deployment. Previously, he deployed to Saudi Arabia in 1990 in support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm and has made brief deployments to Kosovo and Bosnia since arriving at USAG Benelux.

His 32-day downrange mission to Iraq during the holiday season carried with it the ebbs and flows of the war.

The ebbs and flows were made easier by Sgt. Moises "Mijo" Solorio, one of the chaplain assistants assigned to the Multi National Corps-Iraq, who "volunteered to accompany me while I traveled via Blackhawk or convoy on ex-

tremely dangerous missions. He served as my personal force protector," he said. "Sgt. Solorio is just one of the many outstanding young Soldiers serving selflessly in Iraq."

Their daily schedule was hectic as each Catholic chaplain offers an average of six Sunday Masses, plus their daily and weekly Mass for their own unit.

"Some of the Sunday Masses are celebrated on weekdays because every day is Sunday at a Forward Operations Base," he said.

Some events from his deployment he still carries with him.

"One event involved a young Soldier who attempted to take his own life," he said. "The Combat Surgical Hospital taking care of him was preparing to medivac him to Ramstein, Germany, where a mother and father were waiting for their son."

"The hospital commander requested a Catholic Chaplain administer the Last Rites because he didn't think the Soldier would survive the trip," he said. "The medical staff gathered around his bed, just like a family. I prayed he would live long enough for his family to see him before he died."

"A few days later, one of the nurses called to tell me that the young Soldier survived the trip back to Ramstein and died with his parents present at his bedside."

Marceaux said, "There is a lesson for all of us in the story of the Four Chaplains. Military chaplains teach it daily by example. We all work together, sometimes putting our lives in danger, but take care of each service member no matter what is imprinted on the bottom line of his or her steel 'dog tag.'"

## Chièvres Garrison Townhall

PHOTO: Cis Spook

SHAPE and Chièvres community members attended the quarterly Chièvres Garrison Townhall meeting on Jan. 17. The townhall addressed a variety of topics ranging from upcoming Morale, Welfare and Recreation events to the future Army Lodge on Chièvres Air Base to the foreign bill pay program from the Andrews Federal Credit Union to the free income tax services offered at the Northern Law Center and more. The Townhall is a place to get all the latest information and to have your voice heard on any issue or concern you might have. Comments, suggestions or questions for the next townhall meeting in April may be submitted via e mail to [paio@benelux.army.mil](mailto:paio@benelux.army.mil) or by filling out the form that is available on [www.garrisonchievres.eur.army.mil](http://www.garrisonchievres.eur.army.mil).





## Warrior Skills Training

# Benelux Soldiers learn hand-to-hand



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Staff Sgt. Jeff Kloss (bottom), a desk sergeant with the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Directorate of Emergency Services and Staff Sgt. Dekishon Rogers (top), a military police officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Benelux, demonstrate how to throw, reverse and subdue enemy combatants during the Warrior Skills hand-to-hand training on Jan. 18 at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. Soldiers from USAG Brussels, Chièvres Garrison and the Northern Europe Veterinary Detachment participated in the training.

**By J.D. Hardesty**  
*Benelux EDGE Editor*

With all of the high-powered weaponry U.S. forces use in the Global War of Terror, survival in an urban battlefield could ultimately be placed in a Soldier's own hands.

"Soldiers need to be able to protect themselves on patrol and on the streets," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Kloss, a desk sergeant with the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Directorate of Emergency Services, who served as the Warrior Skill instructor for hand-to-hand combatant training on Jan. 18 at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base.

Kloss, a native of St. Cloud, Minn., blends four years of Golden Gloves boxing with 23 years of wrestling and a few years of Ultimate Fighting while he was on recruiting duty into his makeshift classroom.

Warrior Skills are an important part of a

Soldier's continuing education.

Facing a combatant eye-to-eye, hand-to-hand on the streets is something for which all Soldiers need to be prepared.

"It's important every Soldier is able to incapacitate the enemy," said Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Benelux 1st Sgt. Thomas Frankhouser. "Once a combatant is incapacitated, a Soldier has more control of their situation and surroundings."

Soldiers from USAG Brussels, Chièvres Garrison, 230th Military Police Company and the Northern Europe Veterinary Detachment took part in the combatant hand-to-hand training designed to help Soldiers survive on today's urban battlefields.

The training terminology is simple.

"Trap the ankle, trap the arm, use your heel in the hip, reverse the position so you can subdue the enemy," Kloss explained to his

fellow brothers and sisters in arms during the training. "I hope they never have to use the training, though they may need to depend on it for survival."

It's all about confidence.

"The practice builds confidence and keeps their skills honed should they be asked to answer the nation's call and deploy down-range," said Frankhouser. "Training builds confidence. The more we train, the more confidence is imbedded in our Soldiers' minds - the more it becomes instinct."

"The training is great because it adopts one style that is easy to learn," said Staff Sgt. Todd Angel, an Ultimate Fighting Championship enthusiast assigned to the 230th Military Police Company supporting DES's canine mission. "Kloss's instruction gives the basic techniques; however, your own tenacity and skill take over."



# USAG Benelux-USANATO Honors King's 'Dream'



**JUSTICE:** 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1929-1968

# King maximized the 'd-a-s-h' in his life

By J.D. Hardesty

*Benelux EDGE Editor*

While many remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his "I have a Dream" speech delivered on Aug. 28, 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC, others reflect on his "I've been to the Mountain Top," speech one day prior to when, on April 4, an assassin's bullet robbed him of his life while he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.

Serving as keynote speaker at the joint U.S. Army NATO-U.S. Army Garrison Benelux prayer breakfast to honor King, Vernon L. Fowler, senior pastor of the Focus of Jesus Full Gospel Church in Ghlin, Belgium iterated it is the d-a-s-h, the small symbol between the year of his birth and death that reflects the "good and the bad, the right and the wrong" which made up his life and bears further analysis and reflection.

The d-a-s-h of the civil rights leader's life tells of King's wisdom, compassion and character as one of history's great visionaries for civil rights and serves as a testament to his moral mettle.

"The 'D' represented his dream," Fowler said. "His dream was deeply rooted in the American Dream; a dream that one day our nation would rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: That all men are created equal, regardless of race, color, creed or religion."

While his dreams were visionary, King's achievements during the '50s and '60s became legendary.

"The 'A' stands for his achievements," Fowler continued. Beyond his academic accomplishments which include a doctoral degree from Boston University 26 years old, He studied the great thinkers of history. Armed with an "extensive vocabulary, remarkable prowess and oratorical brilliance, King led bus boycotts, lunch counter sit-ins, garbage worker strikes, voters rights drives and anything else where injustice prevailed."

In his fight for equality, King would bravely weather the ills of mankind. He sacrificially faced racism, bigotry and physical harm with a non-violent facade that demanded equality for millions of his followers.

"The 'S' stands for the continual self sacrifice," Fowler said, as he further explained how King was stabbed, beaten, stoned, spit upon, disrespected, jailed and eventually killed, simply for standing for the hard right and not settling for the status quo.

"He said himself, 'If a man does not have something he is willing to die for, he is not fit to live,'" Fowler said of King.

King's message brought change to a nation and dignity to fellow black Americans.

Fowler explained that the 'H' in King's life represents the value of "human dignity and brotherhood."

"His message was not racial, but an interracial one, to arouse the conscience and cause us to see that the strength and beauty of our world is that we are all different, but we are also equal. He literally hated segregation, because, in his words," Fowler said, "Segregation withheld necessities from the masses to ensure luxuries for the classes."

"He waged war on injustice, as he boldly declared that 'injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,'" Fowler said. "While many might say forget and move on, I say, we will never forget, but will continue to persist. I am convinced that if we forget the ills of history, we are bound to repeat them."

"It is that same reason that we don't forget (Adolph) Hitler's systematic extermination of our Jewish brothers, or apartheid's domination in South Africa," he said. "We will not forget, but we will persist."



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Pastor Vernon L. Fowler, the senior pastor of the Focus on Jesus Full Gospel Church in Ghlin, Belgium, was the guest speaker at the U.S. Army NATO and U.S. Army Garrison Benelux cosponsored prayer breakfast honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Jan. 17 at the SHAPE Club.



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

U.S. Army NATO Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael T. Lembke provided the invocation and sang a song at a prayer breakfast honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the SHAPE Club on Jan. 17. USANATO and the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux cosponsored the event for both the SHAPE and Chièvres communities.



# Black History Month

## Remembering: 7 WWII Soldiers receive

By J.D. Hardesty  
*Benelux EDGE Editor*

History can rewrite itself.

Ten years ago, seven black Soldiers became the first recipients of the Medal of Honor for their gallantry in World War II.

More than 50 years had past since these warriors defended America against the Third Reich.

Only former 1st Lt. Vernon J. Baker, of St. Maries, Idaho, was presented with the nation's highest award for his heroism in Washington, DC, by then-President Bill Clinton.

Receiving the medals posthumously:

- Maj. Charles L. Thomas, of Detroit
- 1st Lt. John R. Fox, of Cincinnati, Ohio

□ Staff Sgt. Ruben Rivers, of Oklahoma City, Okla.

□ Staff Sgt. Edward A. Carter Jr., of Los Angeles

□ Pfc. Willy F. James Jr., of Kansas City, Mo.

□ Pvt. George Watson, of Birmingham, Ala.

Where possible, family members accepted the honors for the deceased soldiers.

With the exception of Rivers, who was previously awarded the Silver Star, they were all recipients of Distinguished Service Crosses, the nation's second-highest award for valor in combat. The Silver Star is the third-highest.

The men were also inducted into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

As a tribute this Black History Month, each

Soldier's Medal of Honor citation is listed below in remembrance of their contributions.

### Vernon Joseph Baker

Medal of Honor Citation: For extraordinary heroism on Apr. 5 and 6, 1945, near Viareggio, Italy. When his company was stopped by the concentrated fire from several machine gun emplacements, he killed nine Germans, destroyed four machine gun posts, occupied an exposed position and drew enemy fire allowing his company personnel to evacuate. On the following night 1st Lt. Baker voluntarily led a battalion through enemy mine fields and heavy fire.

### Edward Allen Carter, Jr.

Medal of Honor Citation: For extraordinary heroism on Mar. 23, 1945, near Speyer, Germany. When the tank he was riding received heavy bazooka and small arms fire, Sgt. Carter voluntarily attempted to lead a three-man group across an open field. Two of his men were killed and the third seriously wounded. Continuing on alone, he was wounded five times and finally was forced to take cover. As eight enemy riflemen attempted to capture him, Carter killed six of them and captured the remaining two. He then crossed the field, using as a shield his two prisoners from whom he obtained valuable information concerning the disposition of enemy troops.

### John Robert Fox

Medal of Honor Citation: For extraordinary heroism on Dec. 26, 1944 near Sommocolonia, Italy. While serving as a member of Cannon Company, 366th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division. Being greatly outnumbered, most of the U.S. infantry forces were forced to withdraw from the town, but 1st Lt. Fox and some other members of his observer party voluntarily remained on the second floor of a house to direct defensive artillery fire. After acknowledging the danger, Fox insisted ALL fire power be directed at him, as this was the only way to defeat the attacking enemy soldiers. Later, when a counterattack retook the position from the Germans, Fox's riddle body was found along with bodies of approximately 100 German soldiers.

### Willy F. James, Jr.

Medal of Honor Citation: For extraordinary heroism on Apr. 7, 1945, near Lippoldsberg, Germany. As lead scout during a maneuver 'Pfc. James was the first to draw enemy fire. He was pinned down for over an hour, during which time he observed enemy positions in detail. Returning to his platoon, he assisted in working out a new plan of maneuver. He



PHOTO: National Archives

Colors of the famous 369th Infantry (African American) parade in New York City. The troops, many of which were from New York were decorated with War Crosses by the French Government.



# Black History Month

## Medal of Honor 60 years after action

then led a squad in the assault, accurately designating targets as he advanced, until he was killed by enemy machine gun fire while going to the aid of his fatally wounded platoon leader.

### Ruben Rivers

**Medal of Honor Citation:** For extraordinary heroism on Nov. 16 - 19, 1944. Staff Sgt. Rivers' tank was hit by a mine while advancing toward Guebling, France. Severely wounded in the leg, he refused treatment and evacuation, took command of another tank, and advanced with his company. Repeatedly refusing evacuation, Rivers continued to direct his tank's fire at enemy positions for three days. On the morning of the Nov. 19, Rivers opened fire on the enemy tanks, covering Company A as they withdrew. While doing so, Rivers' tank was hit killing him and wounding the crew.

### Charles Leroy Thomas

**Medal of Honor Citation:** For extraordinary heroism on Dec. 14, 1944, near Climbach, France. Maj. Thomas' armored scout car was subjected to intense enemy artillery, self-propelled gun, and small arms fire. Wounded by the initial burst of hostile fire, Thomas signaled the remainder of the column to halt and despite the severity of his wounds, assisted the crew to obtain cover. Upon leaving the scant protection which the vehicle afforded, Thomas again was subjected to a hail of enemy fire which inflicted multiple gunshot wounds in his chest, legs, and left arm. Despite the intense pain Thomas ordered and directed the dispersion and emplacement of two antitank guns which effectively returned the enemy fire. He refused to be evacuated until he was certain his junior officer was in full control of the situation.

### George Watson

**Medal of Honor Citation:** For extraordinary heroism in action on Mar. 8, 1943. Pvt. Watson was on board a ship which was attacked and hit by enemy bombers. When the ship was abandoned, Watson, instead of seeking to save himself, remained in the water assisting several soldiers who could not swim to reach the safety of the raft. This heroic action, which subsequently cost him his life, resulted in the saving of several of his comrades. Weakened by his exertions, he was dragged down by the suction of the sinking ship and was drowned. Watson's extraordinarily valorous actions, daring leadership, and self-sacrificing devotion to his fellow man exemplify the finest traditions of military service.



PHOTO: National Archives

Long, dangerous missions over enemy territory and inclement weather often necessitate fighter planes returning to their bases with gas in their tanks for little over three minutes flying time. Pilots of a 15th Army Air Forces squadron decided to form a club to be known as 'The Three Minute Egg Club', with membership limited to those unfortunates who landed within the narrow margin. Left to right: 1st Lts. Clarence A. Dart and Wilson D. Eagelson and 2nd Lt. William N. Olsbrook.



PHOTO: National Archives

Body of American soldier is borne on stretcher from terrain in vicinity of Malmedy, Belgium, where on or about Dec. 17, 1944, the Germans committed many atrocities.



## Safety

*New Belgian Law***Emergency equipment required on autoroutes**

A new Belgian law went into effect Feb. 1, requiring drivers on Autoroutes (express roads) to carry a reflective vest as part of their emergency equipment.

The requirement of wearing a reflective vest only pertains to drivers of vehicles traveling on highways or roads exclusively reserved for vehicles.

When a driver exits a vehicle in order to take necessary measures to ensure traffic safety (put the triangles, etc.), they must now wear a reflective vest. This concerns cases when the car is stopped on a traffic lane or on the emergency lane.

Visibility for pedestrians is really critical where speed is usually higher than other roads.

Only the driver of the car must take necessary measures to ensure traffic safety of wearing the reflective vest. It is recommended that passengers exiting the vehicle should stay behind the guard railing for their own safety.

## Attitude Survey

**Survey for entire civilian corps**

The annual Army Civilian Attitude Survey is now open for all Army employees, including U.S. federal, non-appropriated funded and host nation employees.

The online survey takes approximately 30 minutes and can be completed on duty time.

The survey is the Army's primary attitude and opinion survey of the entire civilian corps. It measures organizational climate, workforce morale, civilian human resources customer satisfactions, and attitudes toward hot topic issues, such as National Security Personnel System.

All employees identity and privacy are protected.

To complete the survey logon to <http://cpol.army.mil/survey/dasurvey>.

## Air Force Banquet

**Air Force banquet celebrates 60 years of excellence**

The 2007 Air Force Annual Awards Banquet will be held Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. at the SHAPE Club.

This year's banquet celebrates 60 years of Air Force excellence by recognizing the most outstanding airmen in the Benelux. The guest speaker is the 12th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Eric Benken.

Tickets are 10 euros for grades E-1 to E-4, 20 euros for E-5 to E-7, 25 euros for E-8 to O-3 and 30 euros for O-4 and above.

Those interested should contact their unit representative for tickets.

# Revolutionary reintegration



Photo: Byron Wiley

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen youth learn about different emotions families can go through after their parents return from being deployed during a special game of reintegration bingo.

## Focuses on kids, helps families

*Schinnen Army Community Service*

When a deployed service member returns home to their family from a tour of duty down-range, the gamut of emotions and feelings loved ones go through can be overwhelming at times - from feelings of relief and happiness, to anxiety and fatigue, and even feelings of depression or loneliness.

And, while it is mandatory for Soldiers and suggested for spouses to take part in a reintegration course, children are often left out of the process, leaving them vulnerable and their feelings left unexpressed.

After noticing the number of children that accompany their parents to reintegration and realizing how they too can be affected by deployment, Karen Booth, the Family Readiness support assistant in Rheindahlen, Germany felt that the young children could benefit from a reintegration program geared just for them.

By enlisting the help of Marie Claxton, the U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen Deployment and Mobilization program manger, Booth paved the way to hosting the first Headquarters, Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Rheindahlen Children's Reintegration meeting Jan. 4.

"The children were told that this was "their meeting" since they often see their parents attend meetings of this nature," said Booth. "Many times children, especially the younger ones, have a hard time verbalizing their feelings and emotions so, playing games and engaging them in kid-friendly activities, the kids are able to express themselves without having to feel pressure."

What began with a sign-up of only six children ended up with an attendance of 16 kids ranging in ages from four to 15 years old - a success in the eyes of both the children and the parents in attendance.

"The event was tailored for children to help them understand how reintegration will affect them when their parents return from being deployed," said Claxton. "This program is one in which the entire family benefits. The children get a feeling of being involved; the parents can get a better understanding on how the deployment and reintegration is impacting the entire family unit,"

The activities the children participated in included a kids-related individual feelings survey (children checked/indicated their range of feelings and then took the sheets home to share their responses with their parents), a word scramble game (relating to change and how it affects them), a reintegration bingo game (using words on feelings i.e. butterflies, happy, sad, etc.), a "what would you do?" Scenario and a group project to make welcome home banners to hang in the hallway for returning Soldiers to see.

Family member reintegration briefings/training are held for spouses or families of deployed soldiers to help them better understand the changes, benefits, and challenges that go with deployments and reintegration. Due to the success of this pilot reintegration meeting, further reintegration activities are currently being planned. Anyone interested in participating, contact the Schinnen Army Community Service Center at DSN 360-7218 for more details.



# Carnaval tradition kicks off this month



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

During the 2006 U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen Carnaval celebration, employees Wallace "Spider" Turner and Dorothy Hubben were named Prince and Princess of Carnaval. As the Dutch tradition goes, the prince is given the key to the city which makes him the ruler for the duration of the Carnaval festivities. Turner received the keys to garrison from former USAG Schinnen commander, Lt. Col. Rick Richardson (not pictured) and former Schinnen Mayor Frans Beckers.

By Rita Hoefnagels

*Schinnen Public Affairs Office*

One of the most important local events in the Dutch Provinces of Limburg and Noord-Brabant is without any doubt Carnaval.

For three days people disguise themselves, party, drink and be very merry.

Carnaval is actually an intense celebration which ends on Ash Wednesday when Lent starts and everything is back to "normal" again for another year.

Although it is thought Carnaval was originally a religious festival, this is not completely true. Before Christ was born, people celebrated the start of a New Year at the beginning of spring. For the longest time, February was considered the last month of the year and the New Year in March would start with celebrating the fact that the sun had cast away the dark winter.

The chronicles of Babylon, in 2600 B.C., indicate the sacrificial death of the king every year during the New Year's celebrations. The king would die for his people's sins in order for them to start the New Year with a clean slate.

To prevent kingship becoming a one-year affair, temporary kings were named during these days; usually a terminally ill person or a criminal condemned to death.

During the festivities these men would live the life of a king and rule the country for a short time.

The Christian church at first opposed the heathen rituals, but they learned that the integration of these rituals would be a better way of dealing with heathen beliefs. And, therefore, in the year 1091, Ash Wednesday became the official beginning of the 40-day Lenten season.

This could also be an explanation for the name Carnaval, namely during Lent people do

penance for their sins by fasting and the Latin "Carne Vale" means good-bye to meat/flesh.

With the Reformation in the 17th century the church was against these excessive celebrations and Carnaval ceased to exist in the 18th century.

Carnaval, as it is celebrated today, originates from the German Rhineland with its cradle in Cologne. This city, occupied by Napoleon's Army from 1794 - 1815 and annexed in 1815 by Prussia, had many inhabitants who could not forget Cologne's glorious past when the emperor had visited them more than once.

He was always welcomed with great pomp and circumstance and entered the city in a parade while citizens showered him with flowers.

The emperor would throw money to the citizens. With this in mind, the very first Carnaval (or Fashing as it is named in Germany) parade was organized in 1823. The parade had to be equal to the wealthy and glorious entries of the Habsburg emperors in the old days.

And a lot is still the same. Prince Carnaval, for instance, still wears a Renaissance costume, referring to the emperors, and is accompanied by soldiers in 17th century uniforms. Although, at the time of the first parade, these uniforms were really meant as a spoof on the Prussians. Characters from the Venetian Comedia dell'arte such as the jester, domino and clown were also an inspiration for costumes.

Little by little all kinds of elements were added. Carnaval associations were established and medals were presented to special citizens and Carnaval participants.

In 1827, the decision was made that members had to wear a hat in order to distinguish themselves from nonmembers.

From Cologne, Carnaval spread all over the

Rhineland and the Dutch provinces of Noord-Brabant and Limburg.

Carnaval associations were established, but the reason why they were established differs widely. For example, in 1839 a group of shopkeepers in Maastricht established the "Societeit Momus." They wanted to make Carnaval an unforgettable fest because it would benefit the city's economy. Care for the poor was also one of their objectives as other festivities were organized which had nothing to do with Carnaval.

Nowadays, almost every village has its own Carnaval association while the majority of cities have even more than one.

The Carnaval association organizes the festivities for the city, village or district. It consists of a "Raad van Elf" (Council of Eleven) presided by the president or lord, and they are responsible for the activities during the Carnaval season. They choose a new prince every year, publish the Carnaval newspaper and organize and escort the parade.

The Council of Eleven visits senior citizen homes, schools and other associations and they give out medals to persons who have made themselves useful during Carnaval.

At the beginning of the festivities, the mayor hands over the keys to the town to the prince, which makes him the ruler of the city for the duration of the festivities. The prince has a representative function. He therefore will draw up 11 regulations current for the duration of his reign and these will be proclaimed at every possible opportunity.

Many clubs, associations and schools have their own prince and Carnaval fest and U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen is no exception.

By tradition, these fests are ruled over by a prince and princess and visited by local authorities and Carnaval associations.

The fest will be held Feb. 16, at 2 p.m., in the Dutch Kantine/Pin Point Café and Bowling Center on Schinnen and will start with the proclamation of the prince and princess Carnaval for 2006.

The highlight of Carnaval is the parade. Participants often work all year round to build a float or create costumes. Every group tries their best to appear in a most original way and almost every local band participates.

Then, after the parade, the street festivities will start. Some participants are dressed in costumes while others are not, but they all dance and sing in the streets and pubs. Many shops will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, and special events, such as Carnaval Band contests, will take place in the cities.

On Tuesday at midnight, Carnaval is over. Every city has a different tradition of ending the festivities. Sittard, for instance, will bury a mask and Maastricht will throw a paper dummy, called "Mooswief" (vegetable woman) in the river. These are just two of the many different traditional Carnaval endings.

Resources: "Carnaval Ontmaskerd?" by Dr. Theo Frausen and "Alle Gekheid op een Stokje" by Limburgs Volkskundig Centrum.





## MPs skid their way to safer driving

By LaDonna Davis

*Schinnen Public Affairs Office*

Military police officers are often looked upon as the example for how a person should conduct themselves.

They are respectful, law abiding and always careful to follow the rules. But, for a few select U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen MPs, the rules of the road went out the window when they participated in a SKID driving course at the ECOOL Anti-Skid School in Weert, the Netherlands, this past December.

As part of a winter driving safety initiative, seven Schinnen MPs, along with three civilians, including the garrison commanders' driver and the local drivers testing station chief, got a chance to see how dangerous driving in inclement weather can be by participating in a unique winter driving course where the attendees get behind the wheel to practice driving on a simulated winter weathered course.

"This is a hands-on training experience that offers something that no classroom can teach," said Kevin Mutchler, the garrison safety and occupational health manager. "Our Military Police officers, by regulation, may have to respond to emergency situations regardless of how bad the weather is; they might find themselves out on icy and snowy roads responding to emergency situations, so this course gives them the skills to drive so that they can respond safely in adverse weather conditions."

Each student was given the opportunity to drive on the road under different simulated circumstances which included how to break on different types of surfaces at different speeds, how to counter steer when the car begins to skid, and driving with and without anti-lock breaks.

"The military police are one of the few organizations that are out there on the road 24/7 no matter what the conditions are like and



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

The USAG Schinnen safety office, driving testing station and military police participated in a crash course in skid driving, Dec. 12 at the ECOOL Skid driving school in Weert, the Netherlands. The school gives participants hands on training in driving during inclement weather conditions by having them drive on a wet and slippery driving course that simulates black diamond road

conditions. "We have to be prepared to help the community members anytime," said Sgt. Thomas Achten, a Military Police officer stationed at USAG Schinnen. "The great thing about this course is that it didn't just teach us how to drive in inclement weather or during the winter, but it also taught us object avoidance and how to drive defensively in case of an unexpected situation, so this course was more than just being able to drive better in rain or snow."

"Taking the course really helped me to drive defensively, which is especially good here in Europe because people ride bikes a lot and will zoom right in front of you, said Spc. Christopher Cortez, a fellow Schinnen MP.

The ECOOL School is a civilian-run course taught by retired Dutch military personnel.

The enclosed course is made of a type of silicone and asphalt that, when water is added to it, turns slippery like ice. Students drive one of the five special ECOOL Volkswagen cars

that are equipped with a walkie-talkie and a special switch to turn on and off the ABS.

"People have to be aware of their own limitations, that the car has limitations and that the surface of the road is constantly changing," said Herman Willems, one of the ECOOL instructors. "We want (the students) to be sure that the basic training that we give here will stay with them when they're on the road and prevent them from getting into an accident."

This is the first time that any USAG Schinnen unit essential personnel have been afforded the opportunity to take a course of this nature.

In the future, the Schinnen driving testing station and safety office hope to be able to offer the course on a yearly basis.

"Anytime you get a chance to improve your self in any skill area is definitely appreciated and a course like this can be valuable and helpful to anyone," Achten said.



# Community Events

## Arts & Crafts

### SHAPE

Building 209, SHAPE

DSN 423-4680/5481; CIV 065-44-4680/5481  
New Arts & Crafts Center services

By Henriette De Lair

*Manager, SHAPE Arts & Crafts*

The SHAPE Arts & Crafts Center offers a wide variety of services, instruction, gifts, and craft materials for sale. The following is a list of some of the new services and products offered at the center:

**Engraving:** We are the sole engraver on SHAPE. You need a gift for whatever type of occasion, we provide the award, trophy or plaque. It can be business or personal. You choose the material and we engrave your message on it.

**SHAPE Textiles:** Fleeces, sweatshirts, polos and T-shirts with the SHAPE logo or the flags. The center offers several colors and sizes. Other items include hats, cufflinks or a badge as well as many other different articles.

**Yankee candles:** All colors, all sizes, all scents.

**Courses:** Day and evening art and craft classes are offered at the center. Call for more details.

**Children:** Seasonal crafts and, of course, children's classes are offered at the center. Call for current course schedule or for more information.

The center can also help parents celebrate their child's birthday. The center will provide the entertainment, parents only need to provide the cake and the guests.

### Brussels

Building 1, Brussels

DSN 368-9629; CIV 02-717-9629

#### Family Portrait Photography

The Brussels Arts & Crafts Center now offers family portrait photography packages. The photographer takes pictures of the family in various groupings according to the client's wishes. Individual portraits can also be arranged. A typical session last 90 minutes, during which the photographer will shoot 65 images. The client receives a complete photo-shop "tweak session" where sharpness, color saturation and contrasts are adjusted. Reproduction rights are then assigned to the client allowing them to make their own reprints and enlargements at their own convenience. Prints are made only upon request and with additional costs. Prices are as follows:  
Outside studio - €150 or \$197.40;  
Inside studio - €280 or \$368.40.  
Call for more information.

#### February Calendar of Events:

Feb. 6 at 7 p.m., Independent Film Evening  
Feb. 15 from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Thursday Writers Group  
Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m., Giuseppe Blassota's



PHOTO: Courtesy DMWR

Origami is just one of the classes offered at the SHAPE Arts & Crafts Center. Additional Arts and Craft centers are located in Brussels, Schinnen and Rotterdam.

**Exhibit Opening.**

**Art teachers needed** - The renovated Brussels Arts & Crafts Center is on the lookout for people who would be interested in teaching. Various themes and techniques in demand are: wood working, children's art, stained glass work, sewing, basket weaving and more. If you would like to share your talent and skill, please contact the Arts and Crafts Center.

### Schinnen

Building H607, JFC HQ Brunssum

DSN 364-2454; CIV 045-526-2454

**NOTE:** Class times and dates are generally flexible and are often selected based on an interest list.

**Fine Art, Thu, 10 a.m. - noon**

Painting (oil, acrylic, egg tempera, water color) and drawing (pencil, pastel, chalk, charcoal). Children's classes are also offered.

**Basic Matting and Framing Workshop, Wed, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Price: €35.** Learn how to frame your pictures, prints, artwork and collectibles. Instruction covers how to select molding and mat colors, and how to accurately measure and cut mats and glass.

**Scrap Booking,** call for dates and times. Looking for some easy organizational ideas? Learn how to create an interesting album.

**Rubber Stamp Art, Stained Glass Course, Dry Brush Ceramic Painting, Cake Decorating Class** - call for times and dates.

**Ceramic Shop-** To use the facility, students have to complete a beginner ceramic pouring course offered on Wednesdays. Instruction

includes mold, tool use and cleaning techniques. Upon completion, students will receive a firing number which allows you future access to the facility.

### Rotterdam

DSN 362-2457; CIV 010-459-2457

The Rotterdam Arts & Crafts Center is open Mon - Fri, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call for class offerings and more information.

## Restaurants & Clubs

### Prime Time Bar & Grill

Bldg. 7, Caserne Daumerie

DSN: 361-5504; CIV: 068-27-5504

Breakfast: Mon. - Fri., 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Lunch: Mon. - Fri., 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Karaoke: Fri., 9 p.m. - midnight

Mon., Wed., lunch buffet for \$6.75, includes soup, salad, main course and beverage.

**Valentine's Dinner and Dance** - Hosted by Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Benelux Family Readiness Group and MWR, the Valentine's Day celebration takes place on Feb. 10, at the Prime Time Bar & Grill. Cocktails are served at 6 p.m. (not included in price) and dinner at 7 p.m. The dinner menu choices are: Prime Rib Plate or Grilled Honey Dijon Chicken Breast or Grilled Salmon. Space limited to the first 50 couples. Price: \$50 per couple. Payment required in advance. For more information, call 065-44-5719.

### SHAPE Events Center

DSN 423-5129/5594; CIV 065-44-5129/5594



# Community Events

**Super Bowl Party** - Join us at the SHAPE Events Center for our Super Bowl party on Feb. 4 at 9 p.m. The game starts at about 2 a.m. Free popcorn and snacks will be available all evening. Also drawings for giveaways each quarter of the game including a gift certificate for two to Euro Disney.

## Schinnen Bowling Center

Building 40, Schinnen

DSN: 360-7207; CIV: 046-443-7207

Operating hours are Wed.-Sat. from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Big Super Bowl Party** - Feb. 4, in the Memories Lane Lounge. Party snacks and enchilada meal at half time. Entry is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Schinnen Bowling Center offers a 12-lane house with Cosmic Bowling, league bowling, and open bowling. Memories Lane Lounge is open every Friday at 4 p.m. for Social Hour.

Cosmic Bowling is now on Saturdays, beginning at 6 p.m. Bowl weekdays for \$1 per game, every Wed. - Fri. from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

## Harry's BBQ

Schinnen Bowling Center

DSN: 360-7527; CIV: 046-443-7257

Tue., 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wed., 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Thur. - Fri., 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Sat., 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun., noon - 4 p.m.

Harry's BBQ currently features baby-back pork ribs, a pork chop platter and shoarama on a bun on its menu.

## Pin Point Café

Schinnen Bowling Center

DSN: 360-7527; CIV: 046-443-7527

Wed. - Fri., 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sat., 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Chicken baskets and a wide selection of sandwiches are on the menu. Serina's Lunchtime Specials for \$6 with beverage included start at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays.

## Rumors

Rotterdam

DSN: 362-2420; CIV: 010-459-2420

Open Mon. - Thur., 2:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Fri., 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

## Three Star Lounge

Building 1, Brussels

DSN: 368-9882; CIV: 02-717-9882

Open Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday, 5 p.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays open only for scheduled special events.

The Three Star Lounge is open to all Tri-Mission ID card holders and accompanied guests 18 years and older. Minors are welcome during most activities when supervised by a parent or adult 18 years or older.

**Right Arm Night** - Supervisors, show your staff how much you appreciate them! Every first Friday of the month at 5 p.m.

## Libraries

### Chièvres Library

Community Activity Center, Chièvres Air Base

DSN: 361-5767; CIV: 068-27-5767

Tue. - Fri., noon - 6 p.m.

Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Sun., Mon., and U.S. holidays.

**Book club in a box** - Book discussions are held monthly in the Chièvres library, and book kits are also available for check out. Kits will include: 1) eight to 10 copies of the book, 2) biographical information about the author, 3) questions or topics to get the Book Club discussion started, 4) additional information about the book or subject of the book.

The upcoming Book Club in a Box titles are:

**February** - *Sisters of the Sea* by Sandra Riley

**March** - *The Witch of Cologne* by Tobsha Learner

**April** - *The Boleyn Inheritance* by Philippa Gregory

**May** - *March* by Geraldine Brooks

**June** - *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

**July** - *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See

**August** - *The Crimson Portrait* by Jody Shields

**September** - *Abundance: A Novel of Marie Antoinette* by Sena Jeter Naslund

### SHAPE International Library

Building 307, SHAPE

DSN 423-5631; CIV 065-44-5631

Mon - Wed, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Thu - Fri, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sat, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed on Sunday and SHAPE holidays.

The SHAPE International Library is a multi-purpose facility serving as a lending library, reading room, cultural center, an art gallery and a computer center where patrons can access electronic information sources such as the Internet, CD-ROM programs and utilize word processing software. A library card is required to check out library material and to use the computers. There is no charge to register for a library card. However, there is a small charge for copies.

**Library Gallery** - As a special feature and to expand cultural awareness, the library hosts art displays by different local artists each month. Come in to view the beautiful and creative art shows.

**Winter Reading Program** - Wed., Feb. 14, 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m., ages 5 to 7; Thu., 15 Feb., 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m., ages 8 to 10.

### Schinnen Library

Joint Forces Command, Hqtrs. - Brunssum

DSN: 364-2110; CIV: 045-526-2469

www.JFCBrunssumlibrary.eur.army.mil

Tue. - Wed., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Thur. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sat. - Sun., noon - 4 p.m.

### Rotterdam Library

DSN: 362-2454; CIV: 010-459-2454

Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Closed 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. for lunch.

### Brussels Library

Bldg. 4, USAG Brussels

DSN: 368-9791; CIV: 02-717-9791

Tue., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wed., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Thur. & Fri., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun., 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed Mon., Sat., and U.S. holidays.

The library offers the Brussels Tri-Mission community a modern facility with services comparable to U.S. public libraries. There are wide-ranging choices of programs for all ages and interest groups to include books, magazines and audiovisual products. When needed, library staff will assist patrons with research, accessing information and reference materials. All members of the Brussels community are eligible to use the library free of charge.

**Pre-School Story Hour** - for ages 3 to 5 years old is held every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon. Please register your child with the library staff in advance.

**Homework Club** - for grades first through sixth is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Homework Club is a joint club between the library and CYS and it helps students with their homework in a quiet environment.

## Scout Sunday



Boy Scout Troop 325 will celebrate Scout Sunday: 96 years of Scouting in America, Feb. 4 at 10:45 a.m. at the Caserne Daumerie Chapel. The entire USAG Benelux community is invited to attend. For more information, call DSN 361-5762.



## Morale, Welfare & Recreation...serving the community

# Army Community Services

### Benelux on SHAPE

Building 318, SHAPE  
DSN 423-5324; CIV 065-44-5324  
Open Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Tea and Talk about Teens** - Wed., 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Join us at the USAG Benelux Welcome Center, located in Hotel Le Maisières for a talk about teen issues. All parents and community members are invited to participate in this discussion as we explore the joys and challenges of parenting a teen. Tea, coffee, and baked goods will be served.  
**Pre-Separation and Transition Assistance Program Workshop**  
Hotel Le Maisières  
Feb. 5, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Feb. 6-9, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Find out about different topics such as home loans, health benefits, interviewing techniques, reviewing job offers, career exploration, strategies for an effective job search and much more. For more information or to register call DSN 423-4904; CIV 065-44-4904.  
**New Parent Education and Support Program** - This program is available to all U.S. military and civilian families expecting or with children, newborn to three years old. If you are expecting or have just recently welcomed a new member to your family, stop by ACS and see us. Services offered include: information and referral, home visitations, education on topics relating to maternity and childbirth, parenting classes, playgroups, breast-feeding and much more. For more information, call DSN 423-3321; CIV 065-44-3321  
**Infant Massage Class** is offered Thursdays from 11 a.m. - noon at the SHAPE Health Clinic, Conference Room. Discover new techniques to calm your baby.

### Brussels

Building 4, Brussels  
DSN 368-9783; CIV 02-717-9783  
Open Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Infant CPR & First Aid** is offered Feb. 14 from 11 a.m. - noon in the Fellowship Hall. Are you prepared to save your child's life? Not sure how to avoid children's injuries inside and outside the home, or even how to handle an emergency? Learn CPR, rescue breathing techniques and basic first aid treatment for children under eight year of age. Advanced sign up with ACS is required.  
**Infant massage** is offered Feb. 21 from 11 a.m. - noon in the Fellowship Hall. With this nurturing touch class, discover the ways in which baby massage can benefit both you and your baby. Learn how to use soothing massage to aid sleep and restlessness. It is also a great way for you and your baby to relax and have fun together. Call ACS to sign up.

**Prenatal classes** - The new Parent Education and Support Program provides ongoing prenatal classes. If you are expecting a baby, or if you have questions about having a baby in Belgium, sign up for this class. Topics covered include: Having a Baby in Belgium, Stage of Labor, Interventions, Labor Signs, Epidural, Relaxation Techniques, and Men's Role. Contact ACS for more information and to sign up for the next series.

**Individualized Educational Sessions** - For those not into group settings, the ACS Soldier and Family Readiness program now offers individualized educational sessions (not counseling) addressing all aspects of the family. Sessions cover but are not limited to the following topics: parenting, couples, family, individual communication, anger management and stress management. Call ACS for more details.

**Open Door One-on-One Resume Writing Class** - Receive assistance with resumes, portfolios, curriculum vitas, cover letters and job searches. Registration is preferred but not required. Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Building 4, Room 327. For more information, call DSN 368-9735; CIV 02-717-9735

**Veteran's Affairs & Benefits** - On Feb. 28 from 8 a.m. to noon, the seminar on VA benefits is presented by representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Community Conference Room of Building 2. Topics covered include: education benefits, home loan guarantees, life insurance, compensation for service, connected disabilities, vocational rehabilitation and employment, VA health care, death and survivor benefits, VA special programs, and VA benefits and services. Please note that while the briefings are primarily for the benefit of active duty military personnel, family members and retirees are always welcome to attend. For more information, call DSN 368-9735; CIV 02-717-9735.

### Schinnen

Building 39, Schinnen  
DSN 360-7500; CIV 046-443-7500  
**Finding employment workshop** - Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - noon, at the ACS Resource Center.  
**AFTB Level 1 Class** - Feb. 8, 22 from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. The class covers a wide range of topics from change of command to checkbooks.  
**AFAP Conference Out-Brief** will be held Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. at the Andre Bruls Fitness Center.  
**Coffee Hour for families of deployed Soldiers** will be held Feb. 14 at 10 a.m.  
**AFTB Instructor Training** will be held Feb. 26-28 in Brussels. Please call ACS for more details.

### BOSS

**Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers** aims to improve the overall quality of life of single service members. BOSS assists singles in planning recreation and leisure activities and gives everyone the opportunity to participate in and contribute to their community. Open to all branches of service.

For information on the BOSS program in the USAG Benelux, including Chièvres Garrison and SHAPE call DSN 423-4606/8294; CIV 065-44-4606/9284.

The next Schinnen BOSS meeting is set for Feb. 14 at 3:30 p.m. in Building 14, and on Feb. 28 in the Geilenkirchen Clinic Conference Room. Call DSN 360-7370; CIV 0031-46443-7370 for more information.

#### Treats for Troops

This Valentine's Day about 20 Tri-border community BOSS members will drive to Landstuhl Hospital in Germany to spend a few hours distributing gifts to an appreciative group of wounded service members who are in transit from Afghanistan and Iraq back to the United States.

BOSS has been busy since the first of the year working with private organizations and at drop points in Geilenkirchen, Brunssum and Schinnen to gather a good assortment of items for distribution. These items might include chocolates, bottles of water, DVDs or coffee. They are essentially items that come from the heart and that will hopefully ease the hardships of the journey home.

BOSS is accepting donations up until the Soldiers' departure date. If you have something you think a wounded service member might enjoy, contact the BOSS coordinator at DSN 360-7370; CIV 046-443-7370 or the BOSS president at 0049-24599-3378 for the location closest to you.

### No smoking policy implemented on SHAPE

In accordance with Belgian and European Union regulations the facilities on SHAPE have become non-smoking as of Jan. 1.

This affects all public buildings to include the facilities where smokers traditionally congregate such as the Pizza Bowl, Rendezvous Café, Events Centre and Club.

Structures to accommodate smokers outside of these facilities will be installed.

This policy does not affect the personal quarters of those people living on SHAPE.



## Morale, Welfare & Recreation...serving the community

# Trips and Tours

### SHAPE

Building 307, SHAPE  
DSN 423-3884; CIV 065-44-3884  
E-mail: [st&t@benelux.army.mil](mailto:st&t@benelux.army.mil)  
Open Mon - Fri, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Ice Skating in Tournai - Feb. 10** - Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of ice skating at Tournai's indoor rink. Skate rental is included and there is a cafeteria where snacks and warm beverages are offered. Departure time: 1:30 p.m., Approximate return time: 6:30 p.m. Price: €19.



**Paris for Valentine's Day - Feb. 11-12** - Nothing says "Happy Valentine's Day" like a weekend in Paris. Shopping, sightseeing and entertainment are available in one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Visit the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame, the Musée du Louvre, and the Eiffel Tower, or take a leisurely ride down the River Seine. Lodging is at the Officers' Club which offers picturesque views of cathedrals in the city. Breakfast is delivered to your room in the morning. Departure time: 7:30 a.m. Approximate return time: 7 p.m. Price: €99 per person in double or twin rooms; €149 single room.

**Horseback Riding, Cuesmes - Feb. 11, Mar. 25** - Discover Mons and its surroundings on horseback. Join us at the riding stables of the Site du Levant, located just outside Mons. The journey includes a ride to the highest hill in the Mons area from where will overhang the Mons Belfry Tower by 50 meters. Departure time: 8:30 a.m. Approximate return time: 12:30 p.m. Price: €25

**Skiing in Austria - Feb. 17-24** - Ski during the carnival break down the Austrian slopes. Lodge in the picturesque town of St. Veit in Pongau. Skiers will have the opportunity to

ski the entire 600 km of ski runs at the Amada region. Transportation is provided to and from the slopes each day, and qualified instructors are available for four-hour classes per day. Departure time: 10 p.m. Approximate arrival time: 2 p.m. Price: €639 per person double, triple or quad room, €689 per single room, €629 per child 12-15\*, €569 per child 5-11\*, €299 per child 0-4\*. \*Sharing room with two fully paid guests. No skiing instruction - deduct €50.

### Cologne Carnival - Feb. 17

Carnival is huge in Germany and carnival time in Cologne is almost as old as the history of the city itself. The festival of today dates back to the mid-19th century, when popular street celebrations joined forces with bourgeois masked balls. Beyond the street festivities, visit the magnificent cathedral that dominates the skyline. This remarkable building is Germany's largest. In the afternoon, visit one of the many museums or relax with a mug of the city's specially brewed Kolsch beer. Departure time: 7:30 a.m. Approximate arrival time: 8:30 p.m. Price: €25.

**EuroDisney - Feb. 21** - Explore EuroDisney and all its treasures during the school holiday. Enter the park at Main Street U.S.A., then visit FrontierLand, AdventureLand, DiscoveryLand or FantasyLand. Enjoy the amusement rides such as the all new *Space Mountain: Mission 2* and *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Perikvill* leave you gasping for breath. *Pirates of the Caribbean*, the *Mad Hatter's Tea Cups* and *Phantom Manor*. Disneyland Paris now offers the 'FastPass' which is a method of reserving your time on the more popular rides and saving yourself from waiting in long lines. Departure time: 6 a.m. Approximate arrival time: 10 p.m. Price: €60 Adult, €50 children 3-11\*\*, €30 children under 2 years. \*\*For each paid adult entrance, one child is admitted at a reduced rate.

**Amsterdam Day Trip - Feb. 24** - Visit this incredible European city with a flavor all of its own. Explore whatever you choose: The Van Gogh museum, which has 200 paintings and 500 drawings. The Rijksmuseum has an unrivaled collection of Dutch art, and the Stedelijk Museum has modern art by artists such as Picasso, Matisse and Monet. Visit the Anne Frank House, see the world's largest diamond, or visit Our Lady in the Attic, a beautiful hidden church. Rides on the canal boats offer beautiful views and area descriptions. Departure time: 7 a.m. Approximate arrival time: 10:30 p.m. Price: €27

**A Day in Mechelen - Mar. 10** - A compact city spun in a medieval web around the gigantic Cathedral tower, Mechelen city center offers a range of squares, terraces and shops, all within walking distance of each other. The city

is full of historical culture with numerous museums, bell-towers, monuments and parks. Boat trips, stylish streets and classic Belgian gastronomy accompanied by home-brewed beers make Mechelen an ideal choice for a relaxing break. A guided tour is included. Departure time: 9 a.m. Approximate arrival time: 7 p.m. Price: €20

**Seafood Feast - Mar. 17** - Travel to Oostende, the pearl of the Belgian coast, for the most famous fish stew of the Mediterranean. The day begins with a guided tour of Oostende followed by free time to explore on your own. The group will then meet at the restaurant Othello for a seafood feast. The specialty of Othello's is La Bouillabaisse prepared with ingredients of the North Sea. You will be provided with a large apron and all appropriate cracking utensils to properly handle the crustaceans. Departure time: 8:30 a.m. Approximate arrival time: 6 p.m. Price: €49

### Schinnen

In the Andre Bruls Fitness Center  
DSN 360-7561; CIV 046-443-7561  
[SchinnenFC@benelux.army.mil](mailto:SchinnenFC@benelux.army.mil)

**Bruges, Belgium - Mar. 10** - This day trip to Belgium by luxury motor coach includes a guided tour of Bruges, a beautiful and colorful town. Register with full payment by 3 March. Price: \$35

**Munich and Dachau Concentration Camp - Apr. 13-16** - Join us for a weekend trip to Munich on Royal Class motor coach (non smoking). It includes three overnights with breakfast at a four start hotel. Register with full payment by 2 March. Price: \$369 pp/double/triple; \$519 single room; \$229 for one child under 11 sharing a room with parents.



**Keukenhof Gardens - Apr. 28** - Round trip on luxury motor coach to the spectacular Keukenhof Gardens in Holland. Price includes entrance fee. Register with full payment by Apr. 21 Price: \$49 for adults; \$45 for children four through 11 years old; and \$35 for children three and under.



# USAG Schinnen MWR Trips & Tours



## Day Trip to **Bruges, Belgium**

**Sat 10 March**

Round trip on luxury (non smoking) motor coach.

Guided tour of Bruges.

Register with full payment by 3 Mar 07  
at the Andre Bruls Fitness Center.



**\$35 pp**

## Weekend Trip to **Munich** and visit to **Dachau Concentration Camp** **Fri 13 to 16 April**

Round trip on Royal Class motor coach  
(non smoking). 3 overnights with breakfast  
in 4 star hotel. Register with full payment by  
2 Mar 07 at the Andre Bruls Fitness Center.

*\$229 pp children 0-11 sharing parents' room.  
2 adults & 1 child 0-11 yrs maximum per room.*



**\$369 pp**

Double/Triple Room

**\$519**

Single Room

## Day Trip to **The Keukenhof** **Sat 28 April**

Round trip on luxury (non smoking) motor coach.

Price includes entrance into the Gardens.

Register with full payment by 21 Apr 07.



Adults **\$49**

Kids 4-11 **\$45**

Kids 0-3 **\$35**

All trips assigned seating on first come & pay basis.

For more information please call the Andre Bruls Fitness Center at Schinnen

**DSN 360-7561 or CIV 046-443-7561**

**SchinnenFC@benelux.army.mil**





FREE

chievres air base

PILATES  
for you

**Tuesday & Thursday 1000-1100**  
**Chievres Fitness Center**  
**DSN 361-5643, CIV 068-27-5643**

# Hotel Le Maisières gets new manager



PHOTO: Courtesy of DMWR

William A. Cook, Jr. recently took over the helm of the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Hotel Le Maisières. Cook comes to the Benelux with 22 years of hospitality experience

By Kim Wayland

## *Directorate, Morale, Welfare, Recreation*

You may have heard about the new Army Lodging hotel scheduled to break ground this spring. The new facility will offer air conditioning, screened in windows and many of the other stateside hotel amenities to which military members coming from the United States are accustomed.

When the general manager of the Hotel Le Maisières departed last fall, the Director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Wayne Bardell, was faced with the challenge of hiring an experienced general manager willing to relocate to a foreign country and with the ability to oversee the opening of a brand new Army Lodging facility.

According to Bardell, "I was specifically looking for someone with the experience and a proven track record in excellent customer service to both operate the current hotel in an outstanding manner, and someone who would also plan and prepare for the new hotel."

Bardell feels strongly that he found the right person for the job, William A. Cook, Jr. or Bill as most call him.

Cook, who arrived in the Benelux in November, brings more than 22 years of hospitality experience with him. As the chief of billeting for Army Lodging at Fort Dix, N.J., he won the 2002 FORSCOM's Lodging Manager of the Year Award and the 2002 Army Lodging Manager of the Year Award.

When asked why he decided to come to the Benelux, Cook replied, "I've always wanted to live and work in Belgium, so this job opportunity is a dream come true for me and my wife, Diane."

Cook has a real understanding of the military and the stresses unique to military families using Army Lodging facilities. After serving a tour in Vietnam in 1967, he left the Air Force as a sergeant in 1970 only to return to active duty two years later. He officially retired from the Air Force in 1988 and, in 1989, became the billeting chief at Fort Dix.

He hasn't been in the Benelux long, but he is impressed with the current offerings of the hotel, to include the fact that the facility is mostly all under one roof.

According to Cook, "It's great our guests have everything they need all in one location, to include a state-of-art fitness center, a play area for their children, and free Internet service. At other military bases, services are spread out and located in separate buildings, which makes it difficult for some customers."

Cook looks forward to the upcoming challenges that face him. "I want people to know that although I expect to be busy with the new hotel, my dedication to maintaining and even increasing our high standards of customer service at the Hotel Le Maisières, is critical to me."



## Morale, Welfare & Recreation...serving the community

### American Family Action Plan

# Program allows community to voice concerns

By Kim Wayland

#### Directorate of Morale, Welfare, Recreation

Community members from U.S. Army Garrison Brussels and Chievres Garrison as well as U.S. personnel working in the SHAPE and NATO Brussels communities are invited to participate in this year's American Family Action Plan program.

AFAP is a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues that concern the military and the community. It allows military members from all services, family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilians to voice their issues and provides an opportunity for them to make suggestions for resolution.

Have you ever thought, "If the military would just ask me how to fix this I could tell them?" AFAP gives you that chance!

To be an AFAP issue, issues must: 1) relate to a well-being concern within the USAG Benelux or DoD, the Department of the Army or other U.S. military service; 2) bring to surface and troubleshoot problem areas; 3) present a realistic solution or a creative alternative; 4) have broad impact; 5) appear attainable after considering current political and

## 2007 USAG Benelux AFAP Conference

### When:

Mar. 13-14, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mar. 15, 9 a.m. to noon

### Where:

SHAPE Events Center

resource environments; and 6) exist within the purview of USAG Benelux, U.S. military, or DoD to influence.

To participate, community members should pick up and complete an AFAP issue form and drop them in the AFAP Issue box at one of the designated locations throughout the communities. Distribution sites and issue forms may be printed from the USAG Benelux website. Additionally, issue forms may be picked up near an issue box or at Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Army Community Service located in building 318 on SHAPE. Deadline for submission is Feb. 9.

On Mar. 13, the USAG Benelux ACS will

host a three-day AFAP Conference at the SHAPE Events Center where designees determine the top issues to be forwarded to higher level components within DoD and the military. And, the community is welcome to attend the final out brief to the USAG Benelux commander at 10 a.m. on Mar. 15.

According to Ken O'Meara, acting ACS director, "With all of the transitioning of our military forces, both home and abroad, the AFAP process has never been more important. No issue is too small to bring to the table for discussion and no issue will be discarded; this is the opportunity for the community to speak out."

For those who don't want to bring a concern up through AFAP, they may provide feedback about programs and services through the Interactive Customer Evaluation system. ICE is web-based and available around the clock. To use ICE, go to [www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil](http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil) and click on the ICE icon.

For more information on the AFAP program or 2007 AFAP Conference, please call DSN: 423-7461/5324 or Civ: 065-44-7461/5324.



BRING YOUR EXPERIENCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO THE 2007

## USAG Benelux AFAP Conference

Tues, Wed & Thurs **13, 14 & 15 Mar**  
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the SHAPE Events Center

### A World of Experience Within Our Community

Do you have a suggestion on how to improve the quality of life in the Brussels & Chievres Community? It could be that what you learned in Korea or at Fort Hood or in Italy might help resolve an issue here.

Community members in both the USAG Brussels and Chievres Garrison will be able to complete issue forms and drop the completed forms in strategically placed boxes.

**Issue submission deadline is Friday 9 February 2007**

For more information call USAG Benelux ACS  
**423-7461 or 423-5324**

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[main\\_gate@skynet.be](mailto:main_gate@skynet.be)

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Morale, Welfare & Recreation...serving the community

# Community Events

## Child & Youth Services

### SHAPE

Central Registration (all youth)

Building 209, SHAPE

DSN 423-3874/4328; CIV 065-44-3874/4328

Instructional programs within Child and Youth Services are strategically designed to support growth in every aspect of the lives of Army youth.

**SKIES Unlimited** (Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration, and Skills) is the framework for the Army's Child & Youth Services instructional program. It encompasses the four service areas: Arts, Recreation & Leisure; Citizenship & Leadership; Sports, Fitness & Health; and Academic Skills, Mentoring & Intervention. One important goal of the SKIES Unlimited initiative is to provide Army CYS with consistent, instantly recognizable, unifying corporate image for instructional programs.

Session IV: Feb. 26 - Mar. 29

Registration: Feb. 5 - 9

Classes offered this session include: Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Irish Dance, Family Country and Western Line Dance, Free Style Dance Studio, Cello, Violin, Piano, Guitar, Youth Orchestra, Early Childhood Music, Parent and Child Dance, French, English, Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Swimming, Tae Kwon do, Judo, Tennis, Bowling, Horseback Riding, PGA Prep Golf, Badminton and Modeling/Hair Braiding. Call CYS for more details.

### Schinnen

Central Enrollment and Registration

DSN 364-6221; CIV 045-563-6221

Central Enrollment and Registration hours are Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. for walk-ins and 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. for appointments. Programs are open to all U.S. and NATO ID card holders. All children and youth must be registered through CER to use our services. A yearly registration fee of \$18 is required. CER enrolls children in programs and maintains waiting lists when needed.

**Youth Sports & Fitness** - Registration for Baseball and Softball runs through Mar 16. Cost is \$46 plus \$18 CYS membership. Age groups are four to five years for Pre T-Ball, six to seven for T-Ball, eight to nine years for machine pitch. Majors are 10 to 12 years; Juniors are 13 - 15, and Big League 16 - 18 years. The season runs from the first week of April until the last day of school. Registration is continuous for martial arts. Twelve sessions cost \$60. Flamenco and ballet lessons are available. For full details please call DSN 364-6056/6221 or CIV 045-563-6056/6221.

**Fine Arts Competition** - Pictured on display in the Schinnen Bowling Center is artwork submitted by AFNORTH International School students for the 2007 National Fine Arts Exhibit Program. The works are currently

## Brussels Child & Youth Services



PHOTOS: Courtesy DMWR

Brussels youth participate in several Child and Youth Services programs and there is a Newcomer's Club and Youth Sponsor Program available. Other offerings include science, cooking, technology and homework 4-H clubs. There is also a new fitness club that meets once a week.



at the regional level where judges will select 37 pieces, one for each category and age class, to be then sent to Boys and Girls Clubs of America's National Headquarters in Atlanta for the National Fine Arts Judging and Exhibit. **Job and Volunteer Opportunities at CYS:** Program Assistants work with infants/children through high school. Salary depends on training and experience. Free training is provided. Volunteer Head Coaches receive free and discounted sports enrollment for their children. Volunteers are always welcome in our programs to hold a baby, play with a child or teach a skill to a teen. Contact Central Enrollment and Registration for more information.

### Brussels

Central Registration Office

Building 3

DSN 368-9651; CIV 02-717-9651

Central Registration hours are Mon - Wed and Fri from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Thu from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**School Age Services and After School Center** is an ongoing program. Join CYS after school for an unforgettable experience! Our certified center offers hourly services daily,

Monday through Friday. Please note: Reservations are required 24 hours in advance. CYS offers five free hours per month for all registered members in grades K - 5. A daily snack is provided. Members will enjoy our 4-H clubs such as science, cooking, technology and homework. The new fitness club meets once a week; currently we are "walking around the world." For more information, contact the Central Registration Office.

**4-H Tech Lab** - The CYS Youth 4-H Tech Lab is now open every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Try out the new educational programs, fun developmental games, language courses for youth, up-to-date encyclopedia, and surf the net for information. This is a free program open to CYS registered members. **Newcomer's Club and Youth Sponsorship Program** - If you are in grades first through eighth and want to make new friends, join our Newcomer's Club! Register with CYS and sign up the day before the club meeting. SAS parents can use the five free hours per month for the club time. Parents are welcome to join along with youth.

# Baseball / Softball



## Registration 2007



**1 Feb 'til 16 Mar**

**Sign-up for  
Youth Sports & Fitness  
Baseball / Softball  
TODAY!**

Open to all U.S. & NATO ID card holders ages 5 - 18 yrs.

Cost is \$46 plus \$18 CYS membership. Age groups are 4-5 years for Pre T-Ball, 6-7 years for T-Ball, 8-9 years for machine pitch. Majors are 10-12 years, Juniors are 13-15 and Big League, 16-18 years.

Must be a CYS member before registering for The Youth Sports Program.

CYS membership fee: \$18 per year. A current Health Assessment and a Immunization Record are needed prior to registration.

Register at CYS Central Registration (CER) at Treebeek, Horizonstr 75, Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (3-5 p.m. appointments only).

**For more information call DSN 364-6056 / CIV 045-526-6056**



## SHAPE International Library



# Winter Reading Program

**14 February, 1545-1645, age 5-7**  
**15 February, 1545-1645, age 8-10**

**Children, explore the world... from your library!**

**Call the SHAPE International Library for more details.  
DSN 423-6042 or CIV (065) 44.6042**

# Education

*AA, BA, MA*

## Degrees work worldwide

Tech Sgt Eric Kerr waited a few years before starting his graduate program. He wanted a degree in International Relations that would combine studying independently on his own time but also having some face-to-face time with a professor. He found exactly what he wanted in the master's degree offered by the University of Oklahoma at the USAG Benelux Education Center on SHAPE.

Kerr likes the Oklahoma program's convenient schedule. The classes meet only for six days which allows him to balance work, home life and studying while still getting some valuable face time with a qualified professor.

All professors come from University of Oklahoma's home campus in Norman, Okla., where they teach the same classes as the ones taught on military bases around the world. Students sign up for classes 30 days



PHOTO: Courtesy Tech. Sgt. Eric Kerr  
**Tech Sgt. Eric and Adrienne Kerr**

before the first meeting. During those 30 days students do initial reading and write some of the papers required for the class.

"The OU program provides a course schedule that discusses topics that have never been more relevant," says Kerr. Having been stationed in Korea before his current assignment in Belgium, he appreciates differences and similarities between people from different nations. "In today's diverse world, it's more important than ever that military members understand international relations and how everyone fits into the world's geopolitical picture."

For more information about the University of Oklahoma graduate programs offered on SHAPE, visit the USAG Benelux Education Center in Building 212, Room 109, or call DSN 423-3654.

## Free research skills workshop

The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Education Center and the Chièvres Air Base Library are offering a free workshop "Improving Research Skills: Google and Beyond" Feb. 1 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the education center on SHAPE, Building 212, Room 130.

Learn about the resources offered online; discover useful features available on Google; learn the differences between search engines and library subscription resources; and - useful in particular to college students - learn how to cite your sources using APA (American Psychological Association) and MLA (Modern Language Association) formatting guides. For more information, call DSN 423-3466.

## On-duty class improves Soldiers' scores

The USAG Benelux Education Center on SHAPE offers the Functional Academic Skills Training class in February to all Soldiers desiring to improve their General Technical score. The class dates are Feb. 5-27 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Soldiers are nominated by their supervisors and commanders for attendance. To register for the class, contact a guidance counselor at the education center at DSN 423-8203.

## Upcoming application, registration deadlines

### Financial Assistance

Deadline for Army spouses to apply for the Overseas Spouse Education Assistance Program offered by Army Emergency Relief is Feb. 19; deadline for Air Force spouses to apply for the Spouse Tuition Assistance Program offered by the Air Force Aid Society

is Feb. 23.

### Central Texas College

Registration for college classes offered in Term 4 offered by Central Texas College and University of Maryland University College at the USAG Benelux education centers will be held Mar. 12 - 23.

## Education News

Chièvres Garrison

## Benelux Headstart

Still deciding whether to take a chance on cheval for dinner? Don't know what it is? To find out, join the next free Benelux Headstart class.

The Benelux Headstart class, a joint project by the USAG Benelux Education Center and USAG Benelux Army Community Service, combines French language instruction with information about Belgium, its history, geography, and political system. It also provides survival tips and practical information about living in Belgium.

A field trip on the last day gives participants an opportunity to practice newly acquired language skills. The class also includes a Newcomers' Briefing where information is provided about programs and services offered on base.

The class is mandatory for U.S. service members but all others are welcome to attend on a space-available basis.

Next class will be offered Feb. 12-16 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Call DSN: 423-3466/5324; CIV: 065-44-3466/5324 to register.

### Class Schedule

Day 1 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Newcomers' Briefing

Day 2 French Language instruction; 8:30 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
*Greetings and farewells, introductions, days of the week, numbers, common questions and more...*

Day 3 French Language instruction continues; 8:30 am - noon and 1 p.m. - 4:30 pm.  
*Ask for directions, give street address, learn how to read a menu, pay a bill and more...*

Day 4 French Language instruction continues; 8:30 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
*Ask simple questions, tell time, shopping terms, car trouble, hotel, local events, and more...*

Day 5 Presentation on Belgian life and culture followed by a short class on taking a bus in Belgium. A field trip to a Belgian restaurant to show off your French language skills and to taste some great Belgian food will end the class.



A SHAPE PLAYERS PRESENTATION

# Disney High School Musical

DIRECTED BY  
DAN LAMORTE

Callbacks  
for  
*Juliet & Romeo*

OPENS  
FEBRUARY  
8TH!

**Play Runs Through to 4 March**  
**SHAPE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE**

Thu, 8 Feb @ 1930  
Fri, 9 Feb @ 1930  
Sat, 10 Feb @ 1930  
Sun, 11 Feb @ 1500

Thu, 15 Feb @ 1930  
Fri, 16 Feb @ 1930  
Sat, 17 Feb @ 1930  
Sun, 18 Feb @ 1500

Thu, 1 March @ 1930  
Fri, 2 March @ 1930  
Sat, 3 March @ 1930  
Sun, 4 March @ 1500

Reservations: 065-443312 or 423-3312 - [www.shapeonline.net](http://www.shapeonline.net)

**Tickets:**  
Adult: 10.00€  
Student: 7.00€  
Child: 5.00€

Cash or Credit  
payments accepted





# Honors



## Change of Responsibility

PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

First Sgt. Thomas Frankhouser accepts the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux guidon from HHC Commander Capt. Kendall Adams in January, and with it the responsibility of first sergeant for the company headquartered in Chièvres, Belgium.

Frankhouser replaces 1st Sgt. Michael Roth, who will be attending the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas this year.



## 3 more years

PHOTO: Isabelle Gillet

U.S. Army Garrison Brussels Spc. Anthony C. Bleach reenlisted in the Army for three more years on Jan. 9. The reenlisting officer was USAG Brussels Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Pat Kilroy.



# Chapel Services

## *SHAPE International Chapel*

### Sunday

9 a.m. Roman Catholic  
11:30 a.m. Collective Protestant

### Wednesday

12:20 p.m. English Mass (Klar)

## *Daumerie Chapel*

### Sunday

10:45 a.m. Collective Protestant

## *Brussels Chapel*

### Sunday

10:45 a.m. Collective Protestant  
12:30 p.m. Protestant Gospel

## *JFC International Chapel (Brunssum)*

### Sunday

10:15 a.m. Collective Protestant  
12 p.m. Roman Catholic

## *Religious Education*

### SHAPE Chapel

10:30 a.m. Catholic Religious Education  
10 a.m. Protestant Sunday School

### Daumerie Caserne

9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School

### Brussels Chapel

10 a.m. Catholic Religious Education

### JFC International Chapel - Brunssum

9 a.m. Protestant Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Catholic Religious Education

## *Men of the Chapel*

### SHAPE Chapel

Tuesday Protestant  
6:30 a.m. 423-6020/065446020

### Daumerie Caserne

Wednesday Protestant  
6:30 p.m. 361-5575/068275575

### Brussels Chapel

1st Sat. of the month Protestant  
9 p.m. 368-9677

## *Women of the Chapel*

### SHAPE Chapel

Thursday Protestant  
9:30 a.m. 423-6020/065446020  
Catholic  
9:30 a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. each month  
6:30 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. each month  
423-6019/065446019

### Daumerie Caserne

Wednesday Protestant  
6:30 p.m. 361-5575/068275575

### Brussels Chapel

Thursday Protestant  
8 a.m. 368-9677

### JFC International Chapel - Brunssum

Wednesday Protestant  
9 a.m. 364-2943

# Classified Ads

## To place a classified ad:

# FREE!!!

### Category:

(Please check appropriate box)

- ☐ Autos for Sale
- ☐ Household Goods
- ☐ Volunteers Needed
- ☐ Job Opportunities
- ☐ Miscellaneous
- ☐ Sports Equipment

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ITEM(S): \_\_\_\_\_

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SUBMIT VIA FAX TO USAG BENELUX PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DSN: 361-5106 OR CIV: (32) 068-27-5106

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CLASSIFIED ADS IS THE 10TH OF EACH MONTH.  
Please limit submissions to 5 items.

NOTE: Classified Ads are provided free of charge for everyone across the USAG Benelux community. Those requesting a classified ad be published in the Benelux EDGE agree all items shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.





# Super Bowl PARTY

**Sunday 4 February in the  
Memories Lane Lounge.**

**Schinnen Bowling Center**



**Party snacks and a mouth watering  
enchiladas meal during halftime.**

**Entry is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Doors open at 10 p.m.**

**For more info call DSN 360-7207 / CIV 046-443-7207**



# Volunteers Needed!

USAG Benelux

# AFAP Conference

A World of Experience Within Our Community

**13 - 15 March 2007**



USAG Benelux and USAG Brussels are looking for volunteers to assist in organizing and presenting the 2007 USAG Benelux, SHAPE U.S. Element, & USAG Brussels AFAP Conference. We are looking for folks with computer skills, people skills, and who are interested in making a difference in the community.

**For additional information contact:**

**Army Community Service**  
Bldg. 318  
Tel (0)65-44-5324/7461

**Army Community Service (USAG Brussels)**  
Bldg. 4  
Tel 02-717-9721



(068) 27.52.19  
Open Th-Sa 11-3 pm  
Consignments Th, Sa 9-11 am

**main-gate**

INSURANCE

(065) 72.85.33  
main.gate@skynet.be



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